

"The Consolidated Forensic Lab is one of the most important projects of my Administration and key to improving crime, public safety, and health investigations."

Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

The Consolidated Forensic Laboratory in the NEWS!

Bid Documents set for release in September!!

The CFL design package is currently making the rounds within DCRA and other permitting agencies in advance of obtaining the Building Permit. Obtaining the Building Permit precedes award of the construction contract. Final refinements are also being made on the solicitation documents. The project team is anticipating issuing the solicitation for Construction services towards end of September 2008.

Vendors Pack CBE Conference on Consolidated Forensic Laboratory

Over 80 vendors from across the business community filled a District Government conference facility on August 6, 2008 to discuss the many opportunities for Certified Business Enterprises (CBE) to participate in the construction of the CFL. The purpose was to notify the business community that the project was forthcoming, to highlight the \$40 to \$50 million in business prospects for qualified CBE firms, and to provide a venue for all interested firms to network and discuss possible opportunities. The conference attracted a broad cross-section of businesses. After the formal presentation, attendees took advantage of the conference to network at length on potential business opportunities. To further promote CFL business opportunities, the list of attendees and handouts from the conference are available at the CFL Project website: www.cfl.opm.dc.gov.

What is the CBE Program and why should a business get CBE certification? Businesses with CBE certification receive preferred procurement and contracting opportunities. The District directs spending to these DC-based businesses that support and contribute

to job creation and the city tax base, which in turn results in a much stronger local economy.

Project receives approvals from US Commission on the Fine Arts (CFA) and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

On July 2008, the Project Team presented the final design to the CFA for approval, which was subsequently granted. This approval, which goes hand in hand with the approval, in May 2008, by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), represents major step in clearing the path to allow the project team to move towards construction of the CFL. The CFA guides the architectural development of Washington DC. The Commission regulates the height, exterior design and construction of private and semipublic buildings in designated historic areas. This approval is a significant milestone for the project and validates the hard work and design creativity put in by the Project Team and particularly, the HOK Design team. Well done!

Bowen School Construction Contract awarded

The construction contract for the conversion of Anthony Bowen Elementary School into the new headquarters for MPD's First District (1D) was awarded in late August 2008, and construction work is already underway. The conversion of Bowen into the new 1D HQ is the first phase to get the CFL built. Construction at Bowen will be completed in early 2009.

Contact Us:

- Project information visit www.cfl.opm.dc.gov
- Project team at: cfl@dc.gov

CFL Movers and Shakers



Dr. William T. Vosburgh
CFL Director

Since November 2006, Dr. Vosburgh has guided the development of the CFL, representing the tenants and the people they will serve – the residents of the District of Columbia.

The District is fortunate to have Dr. Vosburgh at the helm. Trained as a dentist, he briefly practiced dentistry before discovering his passion for forensic analysis. For the past 20 years, his work at laboratories has included:

- o Anne Arundel County Police Department, where within five years he progressed from serving as a

forensic chemist, to creating the Forensic Serology section, to designing and implementing all aspects of their DNA program;

- o Prince George's County Police Department, where he developed the facility and programming for the county's new DNA laboratory, and was promoted to director of forensic services where he oversaw the broad range of crime analysis units; and
- o The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, where he was the staff forensic deontologist at Dover Air Force Base, in charge of the daily operations of identifying fallen troops by dental records.

"We are not just building a laboratory but a forensic science program. This features customer service for investigators, the courts and the residents of the District of Columbia". (*Dr. William Vosburgh*)

Community Connections

The CFL Community Education Project members have been busy talking with people in the city about the role and importance of the new lab. We have met with funeral directors, community & faith leaders, ANC commissioners, Citizens' Advisory Councils, and others. To highlight a few below:

In May, project representatives spoke with members of clergy at Ward Memorial AME Church. First, the director of the DC Rape Crisis Center talked about the ways the new lab will positively impact survivors of sexual violence including increasing the speed of processing DNA evidence and keeping innocent people out of jail. The clergy then heard from Dr. William Vosburgh, Director of the CFL, Dr. Marie-Lydie Pierre-Louis, Chief Medical Examiner, and Dr. Maurice Knuckles, Director of the Public Health Lab.

We have also been making connections with neighbors of the new lab. Project staff answered residents' questions at the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly June meeting, which was also attended by members of the Southwest Action Team. Also, Sgt. Keith Reid, from the MPD Sexual Assault Unit spoke, who talked about the lab's impact on the investigation of sexual assaults and case closures. We regularly find that participants appreciate the information and are supportive of the lab.

Tech Talk: Cool Technology and What It Will Do

LC-MS-MS (Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry) – is an instrument used to analyze organic compounds like amino acids and metabolites broken down by the body. This instrument is the state of the art analytical technology for identification of disease markers in humans. The instrumentation is very fast and highly sensitive. The LC-MS-MS can be used to screen newborn babies for serious or life-threatening conditions. It does this by detecting disease markers in the newborn's blood which suggest the presence of a genetic, congenital, or metabolic disorder. Sickle cell anemia is an example of one such disease that can be detected by LC-MS-MS.

This advanced technology will be available for the benefit of District residents through the Public Health Laboratory and will help the city improve the health and quality of life for our children. Other applications for the LC-MS-MS include detection of nerve agents to fight against chemical terrorism threat; toxicology analysis for identifying blood alcohol levels or the presence of heavy metals or poisons in the blood; and forensic analysis for assessing drug overdose or abuse.

CFL Community Champions



In this issue, Sharon Baskerville discussed the impact of a new Public Health Lab and what it means for health care and District residents.

Sharon Baskerville is the CEO of the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA) whose mission is to build an integrated, high-quality primary care system in DC. Ms. Baskerville is a long-time advocate for better health care, better health care access, and health care reform for District residents. She became DCPCA's first Executive Director in 1998.

The District is running without a full-service laboratory for the health department, whose mission is to protect human health and the environment through the provision of analytical and diagnostic laboratory services. The Consolidated Forensic Laboratory will solve the problem by housing a new, full-service Public Health Lab for DC. "The lab is an essential arm of public health presence that we need to have in DC," she says. The health care providers that Ms. Baskerville represents on behalf of the DCPCA have always used the Public Health Lab when historically it wasn't a seamless system. "A new Public Health Lab, for the same reason a new Forensic Lab is important, is making sure DC is an epicenter with everything a Public Health Lab should be able to do," she says.

The DCPCA is presently concerned with testing teens for Chlamydia as the District has an increasingly high rate amongst teens. It also leads efforts to test individuals for HIV/AIDS. "The District has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. With an anticipated high number of undiagnosed folks in the city, the new Public Health Lab will play a critical role if it serves as a lab for testing this disease," she says.

One of the many advantages of the new Public Health Lab will be testing for newborn screening, which is now contracted out of state. "If newborn screening is a requirement of the city, it should be centralized and resources should be redirected to the new Public Health Lab to conduct the screening," she adds.

The new Public Health Lab will be housed in the same building as the new Crime Lab and Chief Medical Examiner's office, which Ms. Baskerville believes is an important step in ensuring integrated, seamless services. She states, "Violence is one of the number one public health issues; reducing unsolved crime can do a lot to improve public health and with streamlined services, it will maximize the benefit of a shared space, technology, and mission."

The new lab is symbolic of the District's commitment to improve services such as public health and crime reduction, she believes. "A new Public Health Lab is a statement of the city to its residents that public health is important and any city that has our level of poverty/disparity really needs a high-functioning Public Health Lab as one of its tools to begin chipping away at that problem."

The Words of the Month: *Newborn Screening*

Newborn Screening is more than just testing! All newborns in the District are screened for certain inherited disorders. Any newborn testing positive will receive treatment and follow-up and parents are educated about the medical issues. This invaluable program can mean the difference between life and death for newborns.



Did You Know!

September is Newborn Screening Month!

Project Timeline!

Milestone	Completion Date
Design Development	December 2007
Bid-Ready Documents	Summer 2008
Award of Construction	Early 2009
Construction Completion	Fall 2011
Occupancy	Winter 2011